

Amendments to the Claims

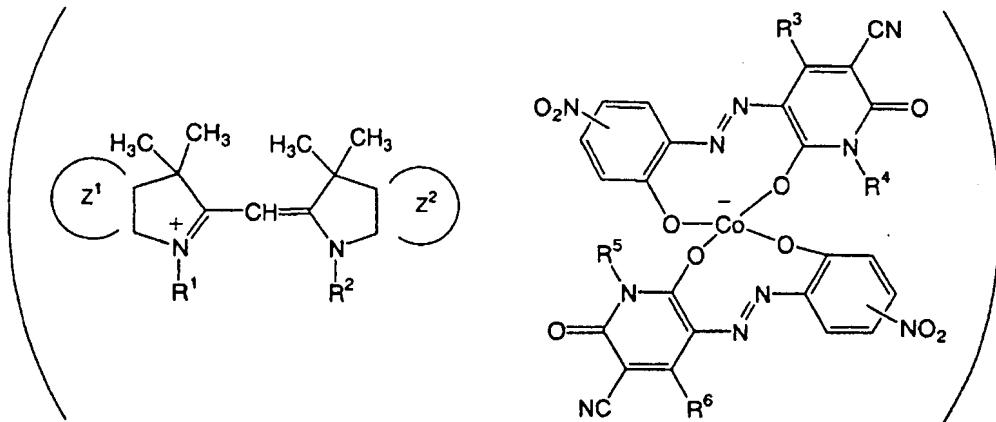
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A cyanine dye which is represented by Formula 1 and which exhibits a major an absorption maximum at a wavelength of longer than 400 nm but not higher than 550 nm in a solution and has a molar absorption coefficient (ϵ) of at least 5×10^4 at the absorption maximum wavelength, and which has a residual dye rate (%) of at least 99.3% when determined on determining an optical transmittance (T_0) of said cyanine dye in the form of a thin membrane formed on a glass plate at an absorption maximum wavelength of about 450 nm, exposing said thin membrane to a 7.5 W xenon lamp with a light-irradiation energy of 180 w/m^2 on the surface of said glass plate for 5.5 hours in the ventilation of cooled air, determining an optical transmittance (T) at the absorption maximum wavelength, and calculating the residual dye rate (%) with the following equation:

$$\text{Residual dye rate (\%)} = \frac{100 - T}{100 - T_0} \times 100$$

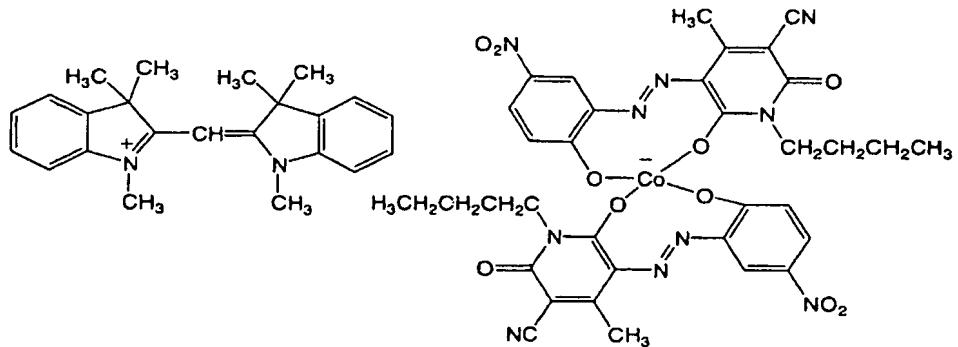
Formula 1:



wherein in Formula 1, Z^1 and Z^2 mean monocyclic, condensed carbocyclic or heterocyclic aromatic rings which are the same or different from each other, and R^1 to R^6 independently denote aliphatic hydrocarbon groups which optionally bear a substituent.

2. (Previously Presented) The cyanine dye according to claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:

Chemical Formula 1:

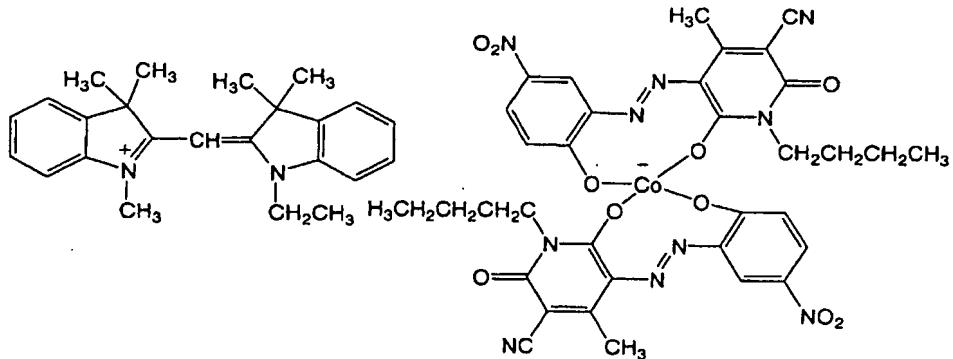


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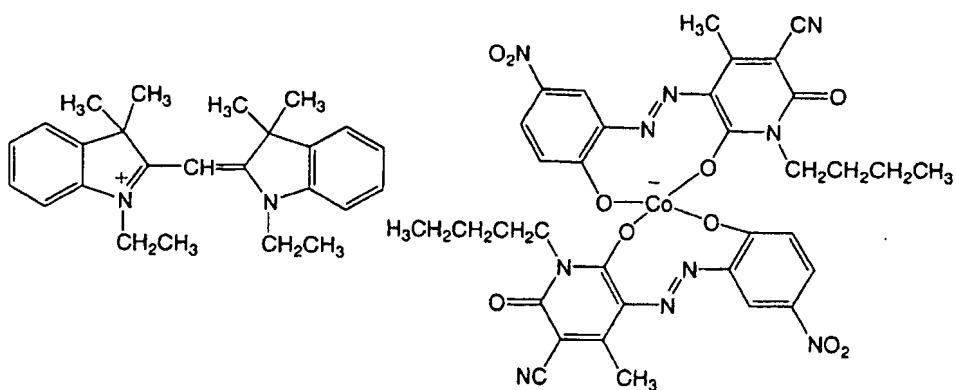
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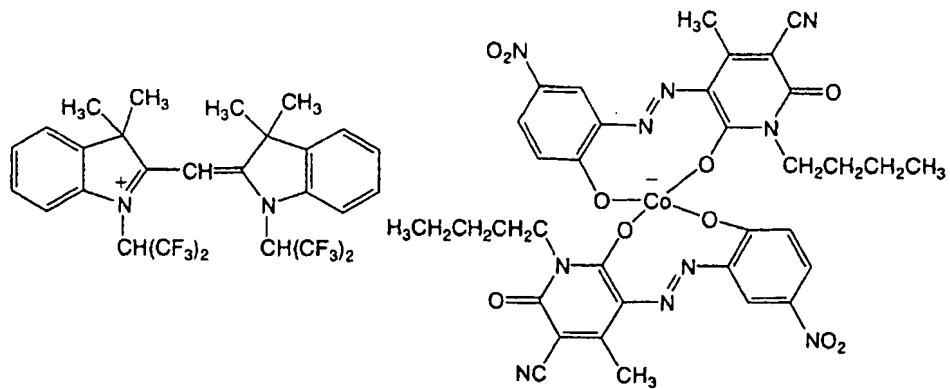
Chemical Formula 2:



Chemical Formula 3:



Chemical Formula 4:

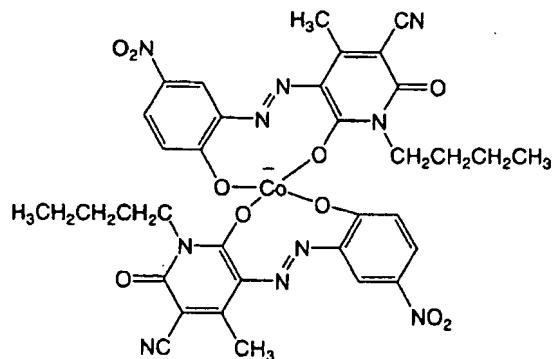
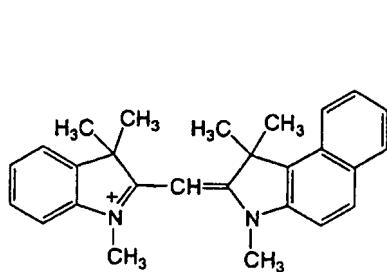


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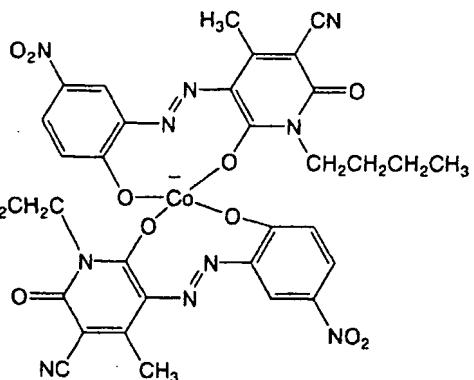
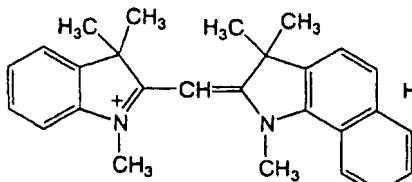
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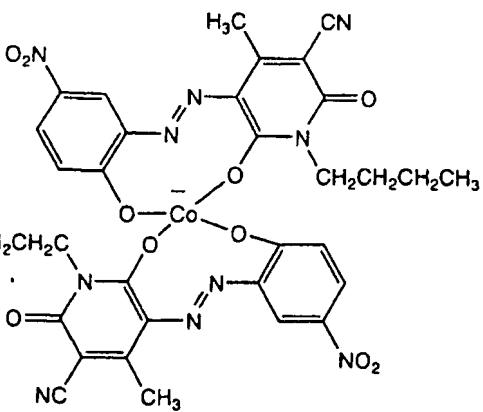
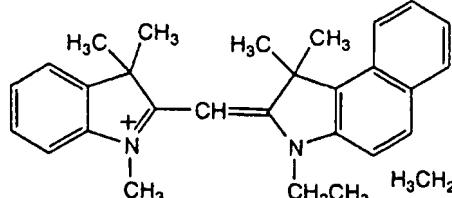
Chemical Formula 5:



Chemical Formula 6:



Chemical Formula 7:

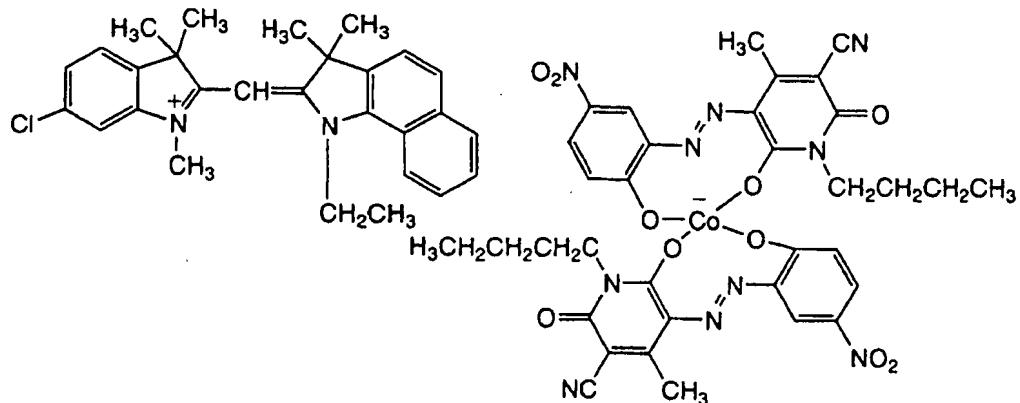


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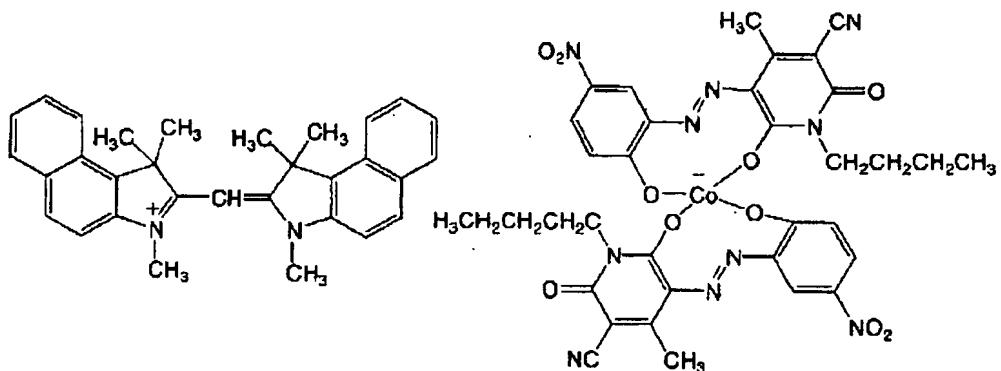
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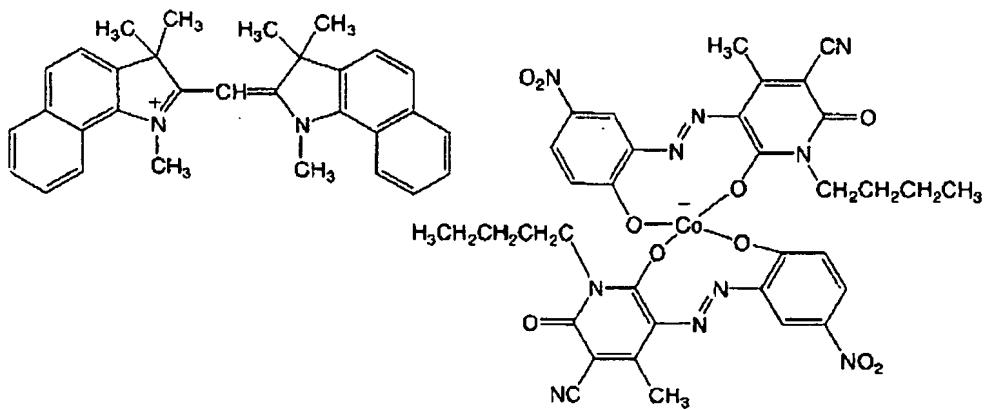
Chemical Formula 8:



Chemical Formula 9:



Chemical Formula 10:

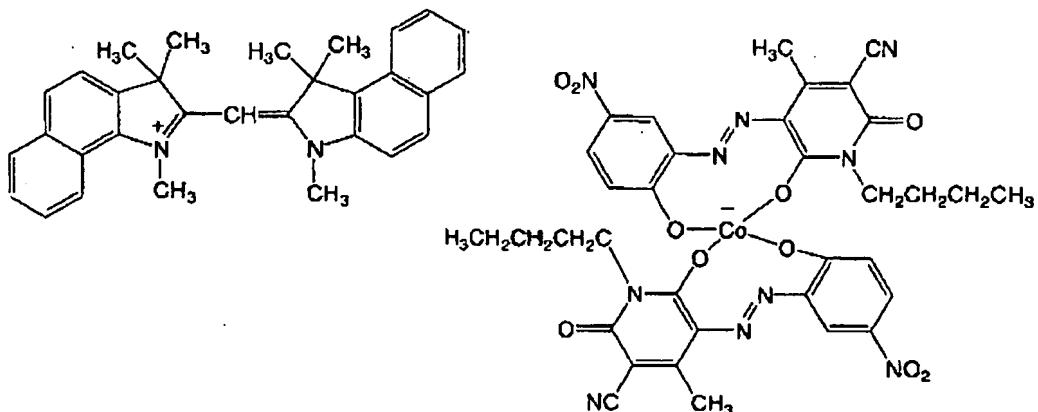


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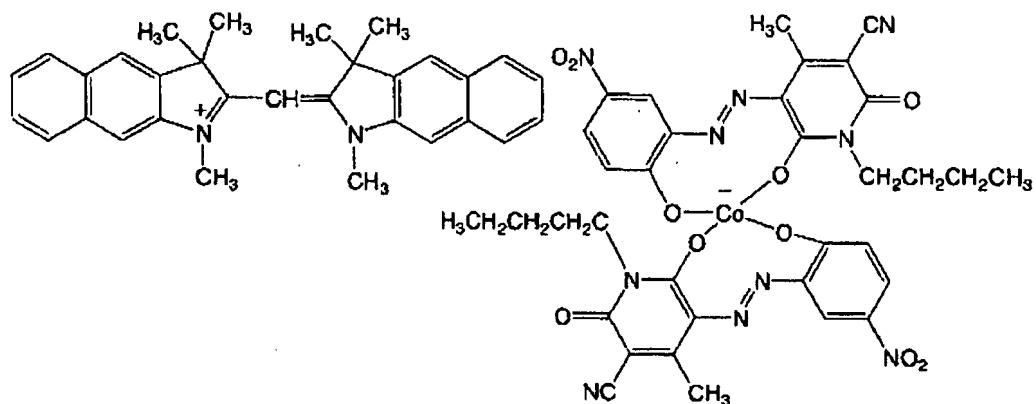
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Chemical Formula 11:

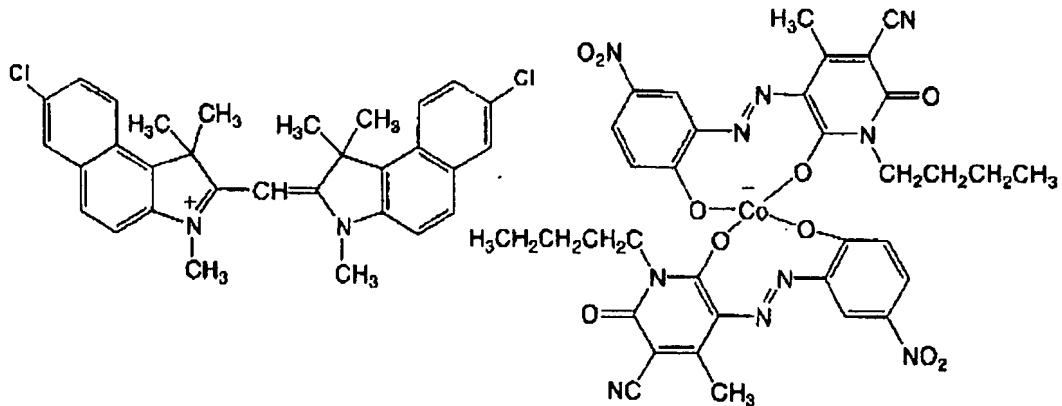


Chemical Formula 12:



and

Chemical Formula 13:



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3. (Previously Presented) The cyanine dye according to claim 1 wherein the absorption maximum is about 430 to 550 nm.